

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An elevator system comprising:
 - a hoistway;
 - an elevator car ~~(12)~~ arranged to move vertically within the hoistway;
 - a plurality of landings opening into said hoistway; and
 - a pit ~~(22)~~ located below a lowermost landing (18), the elevator system further comprising an engineer interface ~~(10)~~ located at or near the lowermost landing arranged to generate a control signal for moving the elevator car to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing thereby allowing access to said pit.
2. (Currently Amended) An elevator system as claimed in claim 1 comprising locking means ~~(24,26)~~ for locking the car to a guide rail ~~(16)~~.
3. (Currently Amended) An elevator system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said locking means ~~(24,26)~~ are accessible from beneath the car ~~(12)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) An elevator system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said engineer interface comprises a key switch ~~(10)~~.
5. (Currently Amended) An elevator system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said engineer interface ~~(10)~~ is located adjacent an elevator call button ~~(6)~~ at the lowermost landing ~~(18)~~.
6. (Currently Amended) An elevator system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 comprising logical means for preventing movement of said car when in said parking position.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an elevator system having a hoistway; an elevator car (12)-arranged to move vertically within the hoistway; a plurality of landings opening into the hoistway and a pit (22)-located at the bottom of the hoistway beneath a lowermost landing-(18); the method comprising moving the elevator car to the lowermost landing, generating a control signal and moving said car up to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing in response to said control signal.

8. (Currently Amended) Software for operating an elevator system comprising logic adapted to receive a first control signal from an engineer interface-(10); logic for generating a second control signal to an elevator machine to move said car (12)-upwardly; logic for receiving a signal indicating that the elevator car has reached a predetermined parking position; and logic for generating a control signal to said elevator machine to halt further movement of the car until a further control signal is received from said interface.